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LB 404, 87C

cervine animals as livestock is the ability...gives the ability to the Department of Agriculture to give assistance to the industry, which is not a hunting type thing, it's more of a food industry. And that...that was the reason for that designation. I think that there are some penalties established in LB 870, but I don't have that before me right now. But the fees and penalties are needed, I think, to offset additional costs that the Department of Agriculture will have, unless you want to stick it to the Department of Agriculture. It looks to me like we're on track and these are things they felt they needed. And actually, the industry has agreed to this. Those people who are raising elk do agree that these fees are all right, that the range from \$10 to \$200 was one that was agreed on by everybody. So we think that we have something here that the entire industry is in favor of. And those fees can affect this...out-of-state producers from moving in, because they might have found a state that...with no entry cost. We have to be protective of the industry that way as well. The felon...the misdemeanors that you're talking about, the Class IV misdemeanor is a \$500 maximum fine, and \$100 nonmandatory minimum. The Class II misdemeanor becomes a six months or \$1,000, or both, and that's the maximum, and the nonmandatory minimum is none. So, as I say, the Department of Agriculture, the Game and Parks Commission, the elk producers, and the livestock industry, the Cattlemen's Association, we had them all involved with the formation of this bill. In fact, we've gone over this for about five years now, and this should be somewhat the culmination of all that work. They all agree with what we've done. There is no disagreement there at all. So, with that, I would urge your support of the bill when Senator Beutler puts it back on Final Reading. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. There being no other lights, Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just to say that I have also no complaint with the bill. And it's just very interesting that the cattlemen are willing to put a permit fee on those who raise deer and elk, but won't hear of it for themselves. So, I would simply repeat, what's good for the deer is good for the steer. And I withdraw the amendment.